The following claims are presented for examination:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains hardware for storing a unique identifier;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor;

a first software module associated with said processor, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said processor; and

means for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under control of said processor**, and**

wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ **An** apparatus ~~of claim 1~~ **comprising:**

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains hardware for storing a unique identifier;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor, and further wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other;

a first software module associated with said processor, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said processor; and

means for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under control of said processor.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral~~ **said unique identifier comprises at least one of either a serial number or a peripheral type**.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim **[[**1**]] 2** wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim **[[**1**]] 2** wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ apparatus ~~of claim 1 further~~ comprising**:**

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains hardware for storing a unique identifier;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor;

a first software module associated with said processor, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said processor; **[[**and**]]**

means for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under control of said processor, and

a second software module associated with said processor, wherein said second software module:

retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;

compares said first unique identifier with said list; and

enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said second software module:

stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and

generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said second software module also disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

10. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a computer peripheral comprising a first port;

a host computer comprising a second port;

a computer network comprising a third port and a fourth port, wherein said third port is coupled to said second port;

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains a first hardware for storing a unique identifier;

said first hardware;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples said first port to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to said fourth port;

a first software module associated with said host computer, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said host computer; and

a second hardware for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under the control of said host computer.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said second hardware is contained within said first adapter.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said second hardware is contained within said second adapter.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a second software module associated with said host computer, wherein said second software module:

retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;

compares said first unique identifier with said list; and

enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said second software module also:

stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and

generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said second software module disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a computer peripheral comprising a first port;

a host computer comprising a second port;

a first adapter, wherein said first adapter contains a first hardware for storing a unique identifier;

said first hardware;

a second adapter, wherein said first adapter couples said first port to said second adapter, and wherein said second adapter couples said first adapter to said second port;

a first software module associated with said host computer, wherein said first software module consults a list of identifiers within said first software module and wherein each of said identifiers is associated with a respective computer peripheral authorized for use with said host computer; and

a second hardware for enabling communication to and from said computer peripheral under the control of said host computer**, wherein said second hardware is contained within one of said first adapter or said second adapter**.

22. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector and said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector, and wherein said first keyed-connector and said second-keyed connector are keyed to each other.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the group consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said first adapter is destroyed when removed from said computer peripheral.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said unique identifier comprises a serial number.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said unique identifier comprises a peripheral type.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a second software module associated with said host computer, wherein said second software module:

retrieves said first unique identifier from said first adapter;

compares said first unique identifier with said list; and

enables said communication if a match of said unique identifier is found in said list.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said second software module also:

stores information indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list; and

generates an email indicative of not finding a match of said unique identifier in said list.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said second software module also disables said communication if a match of said identifier is not found in said list.

32. (Original) An apparatus comprising a first adapter and a second adapter, wherein:

said first adapter couples a first port associated with a computer peripheral to said second adapter;

said second adapter couples said first adapter to a second port associated with a processor;

said first adapter comprises a first keyed-connector;

said second adapter comprises a second keyed-connector; and

said second keyed-connector mates with said first keyed-connector.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for each peripheral.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a peripheral type.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a computer network associated with said processor.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector and said second keyed-connector are unique for a product type.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector is chosen from the list consisting of a tamper-proof seal, a screw head, and a physical key.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said first keyed-connector is destroyed when removed from said first port.